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Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO):
Revisiting Global Strategic Anxieties

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Introduction:

The shared vision of Shanghai Cooperation Organization¹ assumed mutual interests of China, Russia, India and Pakistan in socio-economic engagements with central Asian members to promote trade and connectivity by curtailing the shackles of terrorism in the



region. The followed up pre-requisites included operative factors of production, and channelized framework of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure² (RATS) to mechanize resistance on the ground. It has coincided with the spirit of regional comprehensive security rationalized by the stakeholders themselves without a foreign helping hand. In this way the ultimate consolidation is attained against the mutual vulnerabilities of regional instability of South Asia and favored extended exposure of trade across the region.

Significance of SCO:

However, the dynamics of global geopolitics has posited impactful implications over the political integrity of Shanghai cooperation Organization for multiple reasons. As it consequentially beholds the

¹ Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, last modified 2022, <https://eng.sectsc.org/>

² "Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation," Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, accessed June 11, 2023, <https://ecrats.org/en/>



membership of three world largest economies having the status of Nuclear weapon state³ and geographically significant positioning parallel towards the Central Asian region of diversified markets. Moreover, historical reminiscence of India and Pakistan conjoining partnership of United States time to time for multiple over seas interests have channelized the factors of influence of Global politics over regional sanctity in terms of security parameters. The annual conduct of the SCO conference is aimed at ameliorating the parting prospects of global political spill-over effects. Every year the objectives are re-identified and re-scheduled in the light of states' individual interests.

SCO conference 2023 and Strategic endorsements:

Likewise the commencement of SCO Conference 2023⁴ brought in the reorientation of Asian geo-political landscape under the cascading effect of Global influence. The opportunity of chairing the conference was entertained by the member state of India and formal progressions were not so welcoming for the Vision of SCO counting on indecisive outcome. Initially, all of the state members embraced companionship against emerging transnational challenges of terrorism and extremism in the region but facades strategic interests clashes behind their respective benign political stance. Reality can truly be traced by the resurfacing of Russian participation in the war fighting theatre of Europe proxy to challenge NATO expansionism in the region. Moreover, it has co-aligned with the highly volatile stage of Pacific for China against United States over Taiwan which has critically maligned the geo-political harmony of

³ Times, Global. n.d. "SCO, with 2 UNSC Permanent Members, 4 Nuclear-Weapon States, Must Be Respected." Copyright 2021 by the Global Times. <https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202106/1226813.shtml>.

⁴ "SCO," Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, last modified 2023, <https://eng.sectesco.org/politics/20230511/943174/Meeting-of-SCO-Foreign-Ministers-Council-4-5-May-2023-Panaji-Republic-of-India.html>.

SCO and its course of action. Eventually, drove the intentions to sit together for reclaiming strategic alignment against their sole potential threat emanating from United States.

All of a sudden India marked itself in between of the geo-political tussle where it is hanging in between the sides of power polarity. Although, Indian Foreign policy⁵ stand has gulped up its odd bilateral relationships with Russia and United States at the time of Ukraine war. But the substantial visibility of Russian Strategic Partnership⁶ with China asks India at face to clarify its position especially when quantifying the direction of SCO. It is pertinent in regard to the workability of SCO that member states are ushering their contribution to seek peace and security in the region.

Strategic Anxieties:

The aforementioned geopolitical scenario manipulates unequivocal dampening of the regional focus over connectivity with central Asia by prioritizing political apprehensions. In this way, SCO conference sounded more of a Strategic Asian Block dialogue contemplating political authority of concern against West in guise of restoring the prospects of regional peace. Moreover, the strategic alliance of Russia and China in SCO was visibly counter-balanced with India and Pakistan in terms



⁵ "India's Balancing Act: Could Modi Help Broker Peace in Ukraine?," Breaking News, World News and Video from Al Jazeera, last modified November 28, 2022, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/11/28/india-in-a-good-position-to-help-end-russia-ukraine-war>

⁶ "China: Ties with Russia Will 'grow from Strength to Strength'," Breaking News, World News and Video from Al Jazeera, last modified March 7, 2023, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/3/7/china-ties-with-russia-will-grow-from-strength-to-strength>



of their non-cooperative and non-conforming attitude towards the dialogue table. India and Pakistan resonated their typical victim blaming stand up performance by dragging up the Kashmir issue halting the value of mutual endorsement of the Agenda. It has critically compromised the purpose of refuting serious issues regarding regional extremism and insecurity at multiple fronts. It was also evident that India particularly is not in sphere of time to clarify itself in terms of affirming alliance with China-lead Block through the SCO platform when it shares considerable counts of mutual pact signing with United States in terms of strategic partnership. Neither can it afford to shun the critical economic investment coming from China and its extended alliance of Russia. Additionally it has been forecasting not so profound expectations from G-20 summit⁷.

Conclusion:

In a nutshell, it is of great importance that Shanghai Cooperation Organization corresponds with the endorsement of potential factors for regional prosperity. Although, the strategic differences of state members has reflected some staunch influence in slowing down the completion of estimated interests. In this way, the vision of harmony has faced a clash with the global politics enduring serious repercussions after Russian insecurities flared by the NATO encroachment collapsed across the statehood of Ukraine. It has shaken up the alliances across the South Asia equally which has rendered India from seeking protection against the choice of being sided with either West lead block or the East one. This gets amplified beyond when Pakistan comes on the diplomatic front to support China and engages thwarting

⁷ "As India Holds G20 Meet, 'brutal' Kashmir Media Crackdown Slammed," Breaking News, World News and Video from Al Jazeera, last modified May 23, 2023, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/5/23/as-india-holds-g20-meet-brutal-kashmir-media-crackdown-slammed>



claims of Indian jeopardize in Kashmir. Especially the recent SCO conference has introduced member states in capacity of reviving strategic anxieties which eventually foreshadowed the purposed agenda.

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